



**University of
Zurich**^{UZH}

**Zurich Open Repository and
Archive**

University of Zurich
University Library
Strickhofstrasse 39
CH-8057 Zurich
www.zora.uzh.ch

Year: 2010

Preface

Windisch, M ; Nitsch, R ; Fisher, A ; Hanin, I

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1159/000283473>

Posted at the Zurich Open Repository and Archive, University of Zurich

ZORA URL: <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-36484>

Journal Article

Published Version

Originally published at:

Windisch, M; Nitsch, R; Fisher, A; Hanin, I (2010). Preface. *Neurodegenerative Diseases*, 7(1-3):5.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1159/000283473>

Preface

The 9th International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases took place in Prague, Czech Republic, from March 11th to 15th, 2009. The unique composition of gothic and baroque buildings was a stimulating environment for a unique conference, now the biggest scientific meeting, where most recent research on Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD) and related neurodegenerative disorders is presented and discussed. We are convinced that the comparison of underlying pathogenetic processes like protein misfolding, which characterizes practically all of these diseases, may lead to a better understanding of these disorders and allow the development of improved therapeutic strategies.

More than 2,500 participants took part in the conference in Prague, underlining the huge interest in this area of research. The constant growth in numbers of students, researchers, clinicians and people from pharmaceutical as well as biotechnological industry participating in the AD/PD conferences is certainly due to an outstanding scientific program, presenting newest findings about AD, PD and related disorders. The setting of the meeting stimulates interactive discussion among all the participants. The newly introduced 'Meet the Expert' sessions are an excellent opportunity for young scientists and students to meet with famous scientists in the field, and to openly interact with them. The Organizers have continually succeeded in attracting more young people at each meeting, by providing an aggressively increased number of travel supports, including the possibility for each senior invited speaker to bring one of his/her students free of charge to the meeting. The special character of the AD/PD conferences is also based on a balance between basic and applied science. This provides an excellent opportunity for scientists in basic and clinical research to learn from one another, and to appreciate progress in the different disciplines that might help to fight these devastating disorders.

The Local Scientific Advisory Board consisting of Prof. Irena Rektorova and Prof. Jacob Hort was invaluable to us in facilitating many local aspects of the conference, and in working with us to construct a well-balanced and strong scientific program. Their contribution of time, insight, and effort was definitely an important factor contributing to the success of the conference.

Of course, the organization of these international events depends, to a large extent, on generous financial support from industry. We are very grateful to the following companies for their support of the conference in Prague:

Gold sponsors: Elan, Medivation, Pfizer, Wyeth

Silver sponsors: Probiobdrug

Bronze sponsors: Affiris, Cognitive Drug Research, Noscira

Other sponsors: ABCAM, BTG, Cornelli Foundation, JSW Life Sciences, LipiDiDiet, Lundbeck, MEMOSAD, MEMOLOAD, MemStick, Proteo Tech, Siena Biotech, Teva, Wako.

It would be impossible to run such a large international conference without the backing of an experienced, professional organizational company. The team of Kenes handled everything in a perfect, completely professional and efficient manner.

Last but not least, we also would like to acknowledge the professionalism of the S. Karger AG editorial personnel, who worked with us to bring this publication to fruition. Their collaboration has ensured a timely publication of these selected presentations from the 9th International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the 10th AD/PD Conference that will take place on March 9–13, 2011, in Barcelona.

Manfred Windisch

Roger Nitsch

Abraham Fisher

Israel Hanin